

REMARKS

The following Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated 07/14/2004 and as a follow up to the personal interview conducted with the Examiner on August 16, 2004.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,070,108 issued to Andreev, et al. ("Andreev"). The Examiner also issued a restriction / election requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 between Claim Set I, which included claims 1-15 and 21-22, and Claim Set II, which included claims 16-20 and 23-27. The Examiner constructively elected Claim Set I. Thus, the Examiner withdrew from consideration Claim Set II as being directed to a non-elected invention. The Examiner allowed claims 6-15 and 21-22 over the prior art.

In this Amendment, Applicants have not amended any claims. Applicants have not added any claims. However, Applicants have canceled claims 1-5, 16-20 and 23-27. Accordingly, claims 6-15 and 21-22 will be pending in the application after entry of this Amendment.

I. Interview with the Examiner / Statement of Substance of the Interview

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the personal interview on August 16, 2004. During the personal interview, no exhibit was shown or demonstration conducted. Applicants' representative discussed Claims 1-27 with the Examiner. Applicants' representative did not discuss any prior art with the Examiner.

II. Restriction / Election Requirement under §121

In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction / election requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 between Claim Set I, which included claims 1-15 and 21-22, and Claim Set II, which included claims 16-20 and 23-27. Applicants respectfully elect Claim Set I. Thus, Applicants

have canceled unelected Claim Set II, which included 16-20 and 23-27. Furthermore, Applicants have canceled claims 1-5.

III. Allowable Claims 6-15 and 21-22

As mentioned above, the Examiner allowed claims 6-15 and 21-22 over the prior art. Applicants thank the Examiner for this finding of allowability.

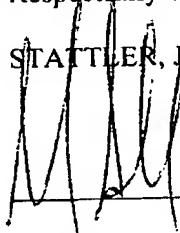
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all the claims, namely claims 6-15 and 21-22, are in condition for allowance. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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